

The Voice

www.ceahio.org

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Columbus Education Association

May 5, 2008

Let's all thank a teacher

National Teacher Appreciation Week is May 4–10, and tomorrow is National Teacher Day.

Thousands of communities will take time to honor their local educators and acknowledge the contributions they make to our lives.

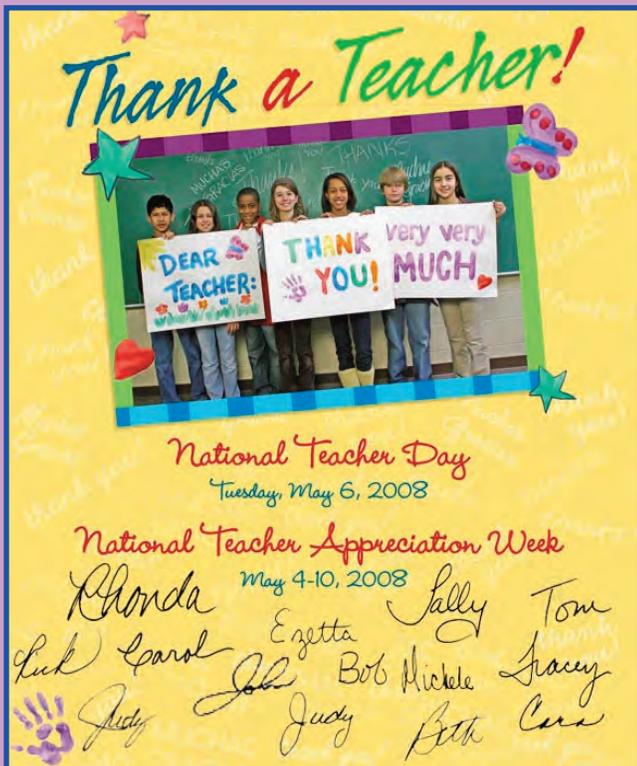
This annual NEA event draws attention to the crucial role teachers play in making sure every child receives a quality public education and conveys the hard work they do each day to make public schools great for every child.

Give yourself a pat on the back! Check out the NEA Web site at www.nea.org/teacherday/celebrity.html to read about the people who were crucial in the young lives of famous people.

While you're at it, thank a nurse! About 43,105 school nurses are employed in America, and School Nurse Day is May 7.

Take some time to appreciate these medical professionals who do a lot, including giving immunizations and health care screenings; dealing with diabetes, asthma and special needs like tube-feeding; preventing the spread of disease through blood exposure; and helping children with clothing needs and other problems of homelessness.

Check out the special edition of *The Voice* tomorrow!



Got cash? Deposit it on time

The Ohio State Auditor's Office recently finished reviewing Columbus City Schools' finances. They found an important area that needs improvement on the part of teachers: cash collection points.

This area governs the collection of money for school fundraisers and events, including sporting events, student activities and food sales. Often, teachers are in charge of col-

lecting the cash. There are strict rules for handling and depositing these funds, and they are not always followed.

Basically, the rules are such:

- A completed *Pay-In* form must accompany funds and be placed in the main office safe within one business day of collection.
- Many school offices are not receiving the collected money until long after events are over. So, the office cannot meet the deposit deadlines.
- Activity advisors are accountable for funds and may be personally liable for the loss or misuse of such funds.

According to the audit report, 25 percent of student activity receipts checked were not deposited in a timely fashion. Some of the money was never deposited.

Please follow these guidelines. After an event is over, bring your money to the office right away. If we fail to comply with these rules, we will be cited by the state.

CEA is working with the administration to develop in-service opportunities on how to handle funds properly. If you have questions, call CEA at 253-4731.



Legislative update: Stop new vouchers

The Senate Education Committee is considering S.B. 57, the Special Education Scholarship Program. This bill would create a new statewide special education voucher scheme. The bill would do the following:



- Families would receive up to \$20,000 to send a child with an IEP to a private school.
- Home school districts would still have to maintain the student's IEP, even though the district's teachers no longer see or instruct the voucher recipient.
- Due process would be eliminated for parents.
- This could lead to an increase number of for-profit schools that serve only special education students, which would fail to provide *least restrictive environment*.
- Money would be diverted from public schools to private schools without the same transparency, accountability and scrutiny.

CEA has joined OEA, OFT, OAPSE, the Buckeye Association of School Administrators, and the Ohio School Psychologists Association in openly and aggressively opposing this bill. CEA encourages members to call their State Senator and tell them, *I am a teacher, and I live in the senator's district. I urge him to oppose S.B. 57, the Special Education Voucher Bill*. The three central Ohio state senators are Sen. Ray Miller 466-5131, Sen. Steve Stivers 466-5981 and Sen. David Goodman 466-8064. To find your state senator, visit www.senate.state.oh.us/senators/index.html.

Flex your political muscle

The NEA has developed a powerful tool that will help you—the association member—influence public policy.

The NEA Fund for Children and Public Education is a political action committee that supports candidates at all levels to effect changes that will strengthen our ability to educate children in the public schools.



For instance: The Education Votes 2008 campaign is watching and recommending candidates for 11 U.S. Senate races including; Alaska, Colorado, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Nebraska, Oregon, South Dakota and Virginia.

2008 is an *off year* for gubernatorial races—with just 11 states electing governors. The committee will work to assure that pro-public education governors are elected in Delaware, Indiana, Missouri, North Carolina and Washington.

Education Votes 2008 also is engaged in ballot measure fights in 18 states, ranging from a complete repeal of the income tax in Massachusetts to Pay for Performance in Oregon.

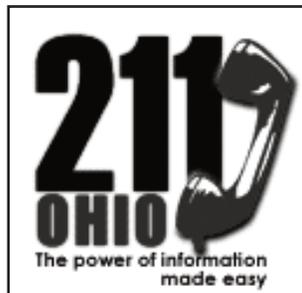
The NEA and its affiliates flexed quite a bit of political muscle in the past few years. In 2007, they led voters to defeat Utah's school voucher, to elect a pro-education governor in Kentucky, to create a pro-education majority in the state senate in Virginia and to pass a strong, pro-active school funding ballot measure in Washington state.

Let's build on the success of the NEA Fund in 2008 elections. Get involved! Sign up for e-mail updates. Send in your feedback to EducationVotes@nea.org. Send in your donation. No dues are used to support the Fund. Visit www.neafund.org.

Dial 211 to get or give help

We all come across students in need, and many of us are looking for ways to help. FIRSTLINK offers one of the best, and quickest, avenues to services.

Just dial 211. An operator, available 24 hours, will connect you (or anyone who calls) with vital services. Among those services are access to food banks, assistance with heating bills and referrals to youth and senior programs.



FIRSTLINK is part of a central Ohio network that includes United Way agencies across the area. FIRSTLINK also refers volunteers to opportunities to help others. Some of the programs are housed in FIRSTLINK's offices downtown:

-  **Community Resources:** helps with quick reference guides to emergency shelters, soup kitchens, community clinics, clothing and food pantries in the Columbus community
-  **Customized Information Services:** uses a state-of-the-art database to create directories of service providers, social service statistical data and much more
-  **Dental Options:** connects Ohioans with needed

dental care, especially people with special health care needs and financial barriers

-  **Foodlink:** connects people to emergency food pantries and soup kitchens
 -  **Kinship Navigator:** in cooperation with Franklin County Children Services, provides assistance to caregivers raising children other than their own
 -  **Beyond the Freeway:** raises awareness of the issues surrounding poverty and homelessness in our community through area tours and volunteer opportunities
 -  **BOARDLINK:** works with nonprofit agencies on a case-by-case basis to help them manage and develop productive boards and connects volunteers seeking board service with more than 800 organizations in Franklin County
 -  **Mentoring Center:** provides training for adults who mentor youth
 -  **Pathlink:** helps personally challenged people to find appropriate and satisfying volunteer placements
- Visit www.FIRSTLINK.org for more information.

Special notes

- Columbus school nurses have held offices and received honors, both at the state and national levels of their Associations. **Randi Carnahan** (Alpine ES) was nominated by her staff for the **Ohio PTA School Nurse of the Year and won!** She was recognized at their state conference in Huron. **Deb Strouse** (AIMS School Nurse) was **installed as President of the Ohio Association of School Nurses** at the annual state conference in March.
- Come join us to celebrate the teaching career of **Richard Tracy** on **Thursday, May 29, from 5–7 p.m.** at the **Columbus North Bank Park Pavilion**. Please send \$25 to Dean Fowls at Northgate Center by Thursday, May 22.
- The staff of **South Mifflin ES** will be celebrating Judy Johnson's hard work by dedicating the courtyard to her on **May 15 at 6 p.m.** If you are interested in attending the ceremony, contact Reneé Ross at 365-6135.
- Help sessions** for writing the **PAS research summary report** will be held from **4–6 p.m.** at **Kingswood Data Center** on **Tuesday, May 13, Wednesday, May 21, and Thursday, May 29.** There is no need to register. Attendance is voluntary. Call 365-8861 with questions.
- Correction:** The **deadline for submitting applications** for the **Ingram Grant for principals** is **Friday, May 16.**
- CEA-R Activity: Vaud-Villities Fifty Plus Camp** is about involving people over 50 in fun, active learning experiences. You will participate in the performance of **A Mardi Gras Spectacular**. All activities take place at the Northland Performing Arts Center, 1865 Morse Rd. on June 9–13 from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. for classes. The performance is at 2:30 p.m. on June 14 followed by a reception. The cost is \$125 for the six days, and lunch is included. Contact Delena Doan at (614) 755-4371 or e-mail her at delenadoan@wowway.com.

See us on the Web at

www.Ceaohio.org



211 is a simple number to call when you need help or access to human services. It is a free 24-hour service. Go to: www.ceaohio.org/newsPage.aspx?artID=329 for more information.

Request for CEA Scholarship Application Form

Name of member making request: _____

Send application to (CCS address): _____



A completed scholarship application, along with a transcript and two letters of reference, must be returned to the CEA office by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 9, 2008.